REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2009. Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 are independent. Claim 19 has been newly added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during a telephonic interview conducted on September 16, 2009. This amendment has been prepared giving due consideration to the points noted in the Office Action and based on the interview.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,526 (Ohtsuka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,500 (Niikawa '500), U.S. Patent No. 7,161,618 (Niikawa '618) and U.S. Patent No. 6,668,134 (Niikawa '134). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present claims generally concern three devices, namely an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. According to one example embodiment, a first device, namely the external operating apparatus, reads out image data from a detachable storage medium, generates a print setting information interruption event in accordance with print settings set after the image data is transmitted to the host computer, and transmits the print setting information interruption event to the host computer. Thus, the first device both reads out image data and transmits a print setting information interruption event including print settings of the image data. An intermediate device, namely, the host computer, controls print preview

display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data. In addition, the host computer generates print data corresponding to the same print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event. A third device, namely, the printer, prints the print data output from the host computer.

According to another aspect of the claims, the print settings are set by the printer and transmitted from the printer to the external operating apparatus. Naturally, the claims are not limited to these disclosed embodiments, which are merely examples according to the claims.

By virtue of the claimed arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to control print preview display such that print settings reflected in the print preview display are the same print settings used to generate print data to be printed by a printer.

During the interview, Applicants' representative explained the invention and discussed the amendments and arguments made in the August 27, 2009 Amendment. During the discussion, the Examiner requested that the claims be recited to further clarify that the host computer displays a print preview display reflecting the same print settings which are used to generate print data. Applicants have amended the claims herein in accordance with the Examiner's request.

Thus, referring specifically to claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system including an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. The external operating apparatus includes reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium, a display unit which displays a print setting screen, and an operation panel which is operative to set print settings in accordance with a print setting

instruction provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed on the display unit. The external operating apparatus also includes a button operative to instruct the host computer to preview the image data read out by the reading means, and transmission means for transmitting the image data read out by the reading means, to the host computer in response to the button being operated. The external operating apparatus further includes a controller which generates a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the transmission means, the print setting information interruption event being generated in accordance with the operation panel setting the print settings after the image data read out by the reading means is transmitted to the host computer by the transmission means so that the generated print setting information interruption event includes the print settings set by the operation panel and is transmitted to the host computer. The host computer includes a receiving unit which receives the image data read out by the reading means and then transmitted by the transmission means from the storage medium, and receives the plurality of interruption events generated by the controller from the external operating apparatus, a control unit which detects whether the interruption event received by the receiving unit is the print setting information interruption event, and controls print preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received by the receiving unit, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected, and a print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event, wherein the printer prints the print data output from the host computer. The print settings reflected in the print preview display are the same print settings used to generate print data.

Amended independent claim 9 is directed to a host computer of the system of Claim 1. Claims 13 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 16 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage media substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. New independent Claim 19 is directed to an embodiment in which the print settings are set by the printer and transmitted from the printer to the external operating apparatus.

In contrast to the present claims, Niikawa '500 is seen to disclose a first device, namely digital camera 1, which generates image data and a second device, namely PC 1000, which applies colour balance settings to the image data. When a user validates the settings, the first device uses the validated settings in order to capture image data. In other words, it is the second device which instructs the first device, so that the first device may take a photograph in accordance with the colour balance settings set by the second device.

Moreover, as understood by Applicants, Niikawa '500 is not seen to disclose or suggest controlling a print preview display and generating print data in accordance with the print settings included in a received print setting information interruption event.

Ohtuska, Niikawa '618 and Niikawa '134 have been studied but are not seen to overcome the deficiencies of Niikawa '500.

Accordingly, the applied documents are not seen to disclose or suggest the arrangement set out in the present claims.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Other than the agreement regarding amending the claims as discussed above, no other agreement was reached regarding the claims. Applicants submit that the foregoing amendments and remarks constitute the entire substance of the interview. Entry of the amendments and speedy passage to allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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